



MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

~ 2004 REPORT ~

Land protection and public trails took front and center in 2004. The Commission's town-wide open space plan will be incorporated into the Town's Master plan update in 2005. Our vision for the future of Milford, we call it "Neighborhoods to Wilderness", connects the downtown to neighborhoods and on to large tracts of open space, using sidewalks, greenways and protected open space. The plan not only includes trail corridors but also land we feel is in the interest of the Town to own. Fortunately, the most significant area identified by the Commission has become available for purchase. On this year's warrant, we will be asking the voters to approve the purchase of about 455 acres at the end of Mile Slip Road. The addition of this property with its miles of trails, streams, and a mountaintop will greatly benefit the Town in many ways. See the Commission's web site for more details including a locator map and photographs. You will also find more details and maps about our "Neighborhoods to Wilderness" plan on the web once the Master Plan has been completed and accepted by the Planning Board.

In line with our focus on public access and trails this year, we have assembled a group of volunteers who have experience and have shown an interest in assisting us with the trail system. Several years ago, a trails committee was created. They formulated the concept of using the downtown as a hub for the town-wide system, instituted an Adopt-a-Trail program and did major repairs on the Granite Town Rail-Trail. This new group will continue on from where the first committee left off. The decision has been made that the first order of business will be to complete the construction of the Souhegan River Trail. The easements are almost in place for the entire distance from Emerson Park to the State Fish Hatchery land, but there is no trail at this time. If you would like to help and join a work crew for a day or more during the year, please contact the Commission's office in Town Hall (see below). Please be aware, the trail is not in place yet; so do not head out along the river until you see the announcement that we are having a grand opening hike. It is a huge job, with several bridges needed. We hope to be finished by the fall but that may be a bit ambitious. Feel free to check with us on the status of the trail construction.

The Commission was instrumental in reactivating the Souhegan Valley Land Trust with two members acting as officers until the land trust is up and running again. Started in the 1970's the land trust was successful in the area with a few land protection projects in Milford and Mont Vernon. We hope the land trust again becomes a force for land protection and a resource for area towns. The land trust is looking for members, both active and supporting. If you have any interest or questions, please contact us.

Additionally, our Conservation Commission meetings over the past year have included the usual Dredge and Fill applications, which we review for the state. Also on the agenda have been subdivision and site plan reviews for the Planning Board. We look at wetland disturbances, stormwater management, and open space design.

Ways to contact the Conservation Commission:

Web site - <http://www.milford.nh.gov/~conservation> or email conservation@milford.nh.gov

Or give us a call 672-1070 (office is staffed part-time).

Submitted by Diane Fitzpatrick, Chair Milford Conservation Commission